

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**126th Maine State Legislature**  
**Joint Standing Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs**  
Sen. Rebecca Millett, Senate Chair    Rep. Bruce MacDonald, House Chair

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***For immediate release:***

February 1, 2013

***Contact:***

Gregory Pierce, 287-3125

**Legislature's Education & Cultural Affairs Committee  
To Hold Public Forum on the Independent Review of the  
Essential Programs & Services School Funding Laws**

**AUGUSTA** -- The Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs invites education stakeholders and interested parties to participate in a public forum as part of the evaluation of Maine's Essential Programs & Services (or "EPS") school funding laws. The public forum will be held in Augusta on:

**Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.  
Room 202, Cross State Office Building**

Representatives from Lawrence O. Picus and Associates, the research firm contracted by the Legislature to conduct this evaluation, will be at the forum to learn about the issues that concern education stakeholders and interested parties related to the EPS funding formula. Lawrence O. Picus and Associates posed the questions below to begin the discussion. These questions should not be viewed as limiting responses in any way.

- Is there something unique about Maine's education system (or the state of Maine in general) that should be taken into account while reviewing the state's education funding system?
- Do you think Maine's funding system appropriately addresses the needs of all students, including special student populations (at-risk students, English language learners, special education students)?
- How could the system be structured to help students best achieve their educational goals?
- Do you feel Maine's education funding system addresses the unique needs of all schools and school districts in the state?

The public forum will begin with a brief presentation describing the legislation that authorized the review of the EPS school funding laws and an overview of the work plan for the evaluation. To access this information on the Legislature's website, go to: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/EDUrevEPScontract.htm>.

**For more information, please contact:** Gregory Pierce, Committee Clerk, at 287-3125 or Phil McCarthy, Senior Legislative Analyst, at 287-1670.

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